

(No Model.)

W. HANLEY.
OVERSHOE.

No. 376,378.

Patented Jan. 10, 1888.

Fig. 1.

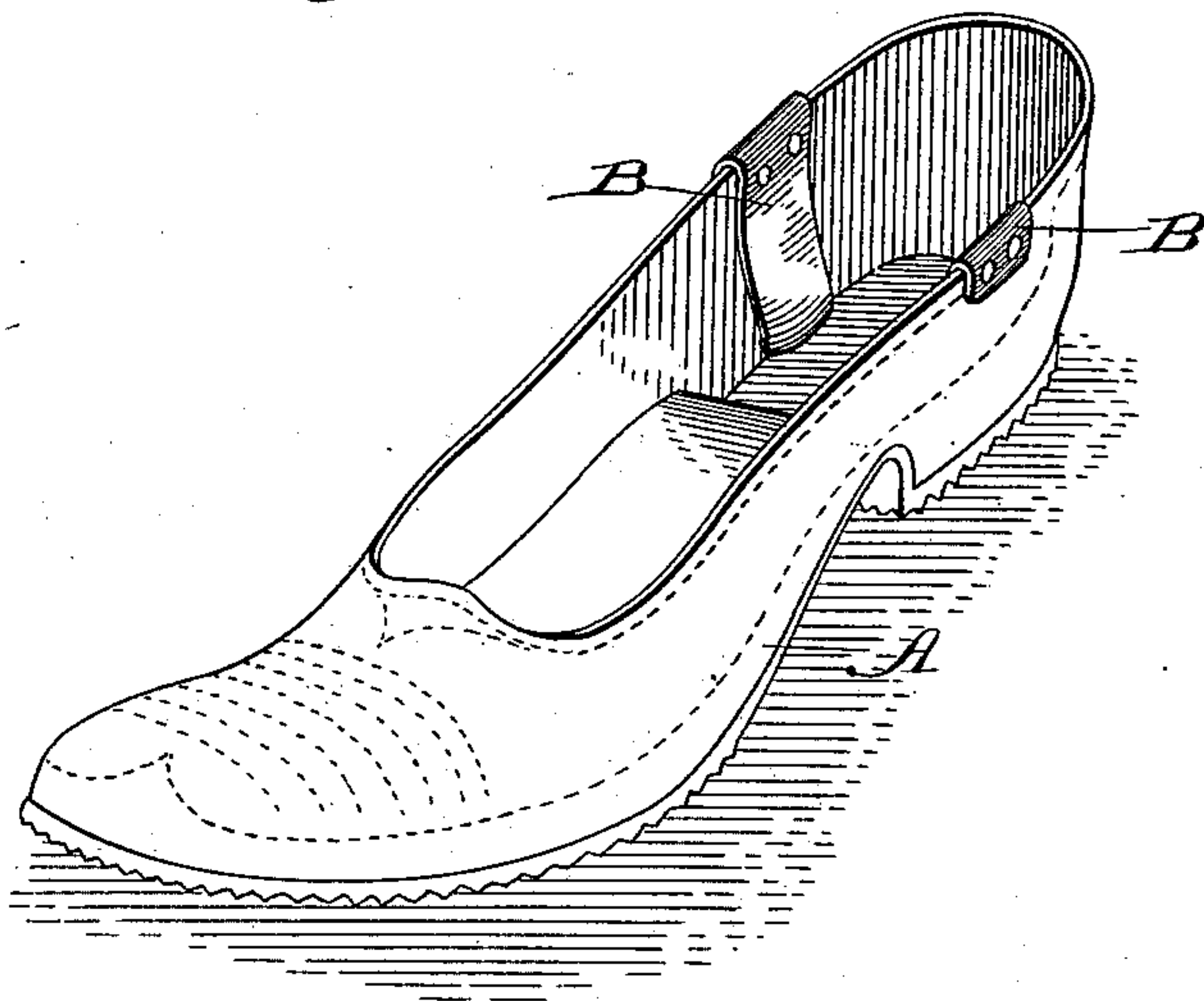
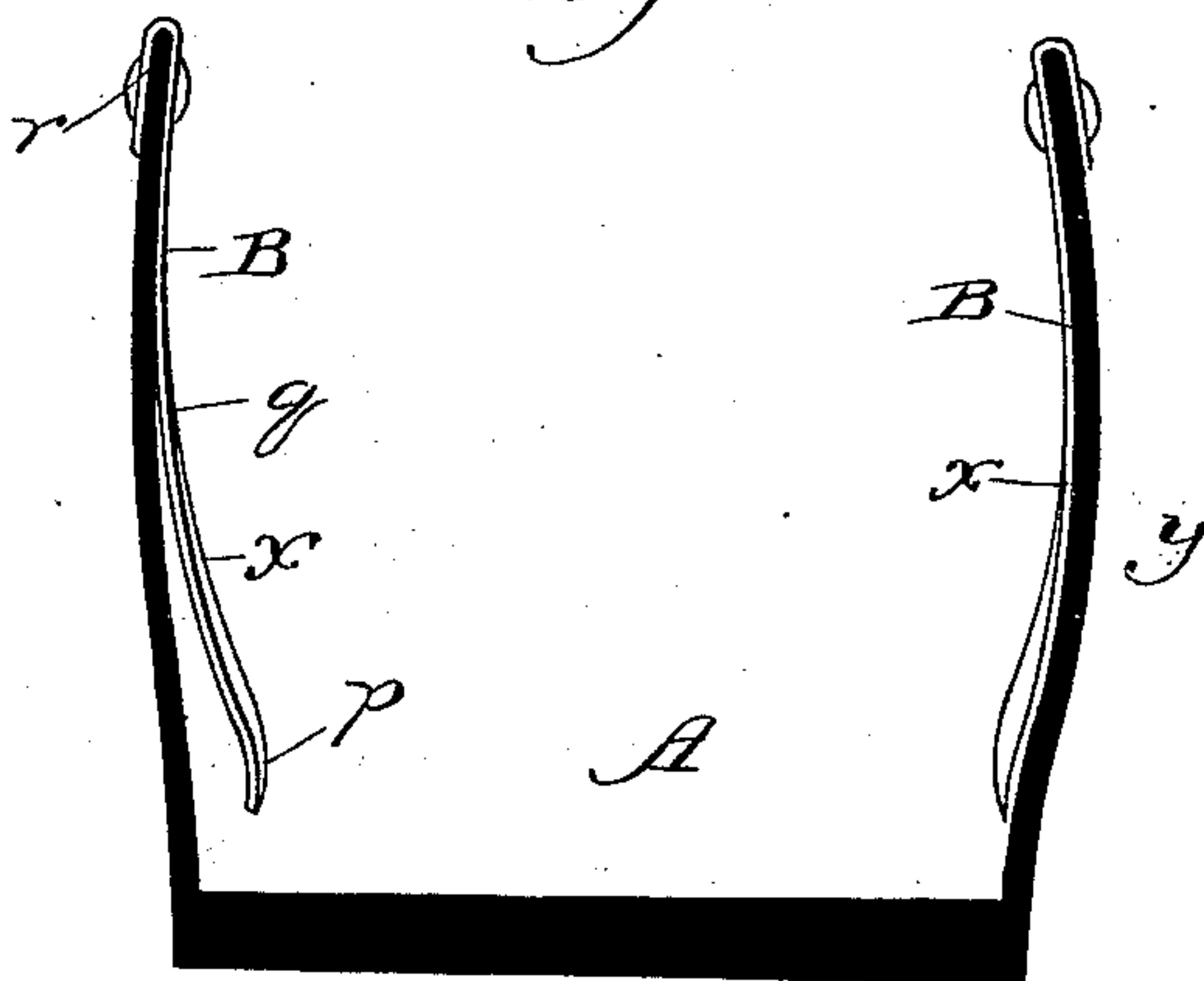


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

Chas. Gaylord.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM HANLEY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

OVERSHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 376,378, dated January 10, 1888.

Application filed October 24, 1887. Serial No. 253,177. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HANLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Overshoes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates particularly to an attachment for overshoes for holding them securely upon the feet.

Heretofore, in overshoes which do not entirely cover the upper portion of the foot, it has been necessary to provide a very close fit over the shoe which it is designed to cover to prevent the overshoe from slipping or being unintentionally pulled off at the heel, especially when walking in mud or snow, or after the rubber, by wear, has lost a portion of its elasticity and become loose on the foot. As an additional precaution, usually the inside of the heel portion of the overshoe has been roughened to produce a greater friction against the heel portion of the shoe over which it is worn.

The object of my improvement is to provide an attachment for overshoes which shall serve to securely hold them at the heel portions thereof upon the heels of the shoes or boots over which they are worn, and thus do away with the necessity of wearing a tight overshoe, which is a discomfort to the wearer and a detriment to the article, and of roughening the inside of the heel portion, which is objectionable, because the friction of this portion upon the heel of the under shoe, occasioned in walking and in putting on the overshoe and taking it off, injures the former by cutting and scraping.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of an overshoe provided with my improvement; and Fig. 2, an enlarged sectional view showing the heel portion provided with interior lateral clamps, the clamp on one side being shown in its normal state and that on the other side in the position to which it is forced by the insertion of the foot into the overshoe to illustrate the clamping operation.

A is an ordinary rubber overshoe, though my improvement is equally applicable to overshoes formed of other material.

B B are clamps comprising strips of stiff spring-steel or other suitable material, pref-

erably elastic, curved, as shown at *q*, toward one extremity, where it is bent, as shown at *p*, in a backward direction. The clamps are fastened near their upper ends to opposite inner sides of the heel portion of the overshoe, preferably midway between the extremities thereof, whereby the lower curved portions extend toward each other, as shown of the clamp at the left of Fig. 2.

The clamps may be secured in position, as shown, by bending their upper ends over edges of the overshoe and riveting them to the latter, or in any other suitable manner. If it shall be desired to conceal the clamps, they may be covered in the manufacture of the overshoe by the lining or applied between the layers of material.

Whatever the manner of fastening the clamps, their operation is as follows: When the overshoe is off the foot, the sides of the heel portion are parallel and vertical. When the foot is inserted, the heel portion of the boot or shoe spreads the inwardly-curved parts *p* of the clamps apart, thereby forcing them at or about the lower extremities of their straight portions, which thus form fulcrums against the inner sides of the heel portion, and thus causing the sides to be forced inward toward their upper edges. When, therefore, the overshoe is off the foot, the opening is in its normal condition; but on inserting the foot the effect of the heel upon the clamps is to reduce the opening transversely by causing the edges of the heel portion of the overshoe to converge, as shown at the right side of Fig. 2, and grasp between them the opposite sides of the boot or shoe heel. Incidentally the effect of the clamps is to hold the edges of the opening snugly against the sides of the foot against the adjacent sides of the boot or shoe, and thus prevent their separation therefrom, with the bending of the foot in walking, and consequent wear upon the sides, and access of dirt, snow, or wet into the overshoe.

For overshoes made of light material—such as those worn by ladies—in which the heel portions frequently extend high up upon the foot, the clamps are made correspondingly light and long, and, if desired, the back part of the heel portion may be stiffened around its upper edge with wire or other suitable material.

While the form of clamp shown and described is the best known to me, I do not limit myself to the exact form thereof.

The overshoe is readily removed from the
5 foot in the usual manner—namely, by pressure exerted at the rear of the heel portion—though direct pulling, such as would be exerted if the overshoe were stuck in mud or snow, will not effect its withdrawal, and the bent ends *p* of
10 the clamps, by presenting flat or backward curved extremities, prevent them from catching into the shoe or boot while the overshoe is being removed.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by
15 Letters Patent, is---

The combination, with an overshoe, of two clamps, B, each comprising a strip of stiff material having a curved portion, *q*, and secured near their upper ends to the opposite inner sides of the heel portion, whereby they normally converge toward their lower free extremities, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

WILLIAM HANLEY.

In presence of—

J. W. DYRENFORTH,
CHAS. E. GORTON.